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TELEGRAM

April 14, 2002

To: ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS - IMMEDIATE
Origin: IRM
From: SECSTATE WASHDC (STATE 70864 - IMMEDIATE)
TAGS: PREL, PINS, AEMR, MARR, CASC, VE
Captions: None
Subject: TFE01 SITUATION REPORT NO. 001 AS OF 2230 EDT
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2002
Ref: None

Classified by FChicola, Coordinator. REASONS 1.5 B AND D.

(C) Chavez's Vice President Diosdado Cabello declared himself Acting President and called Chavez supporters to the palace. Chavistas, supported by the palace's Honor Regiment, seized the palace. Questioning whether Chavez had resigned, the regiment's commander insisted Chavez be brought to the palace. Meanwhile, Chavistas assaulted and occupied all but one television station. Faced with pro-Chavez mobs, Caracas dailies El Universal and El Nacional were evacuated. Chavistas are demanding Chavez's return. There are reports that Chavez is on his way back to Caracas to re-take power.

(TF/Embassy Caracas telcon, TF/Venezuela desk telcon, Reuters)

OAS RESOLUTION APPROVED, SECGEN MISSION TO CARACAS

(U) Late April 12, the OAS Permanent Council approved a resolution condemning alteration of constitutional order and deplorable acts of violence, calling for normalization of democratic rule, and instructing the OAS Secretary General to travel to Caracas as soon as possible. A special General Assembly has been convoked for April 18. (TF/USOAS)

PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT CARMONA DETAINED

(S) Chavez's supporters seized control of Fuerte Tiuna, the Defense Ministry headquarters, and detained Provisional President Carmona and Carmona-loyal military leaders. Earlier, Carmona tried to reverse course and reinstate the National Assembly in the face of widespread domestic and international criticism. Carmona's action followed a broadcast by Military Commander General Efraim Vasquez, in which Vasquez outlined a seven-point plan to maintain constitutional continuity including reinstatement. (TF/Embassy Caracas telcon, TF/Venezuela desk telcon, Globovision)

AMERICAN CITIZENS OK

(U) There are no reports of AMcit injuries. Most US carriers have suspended flights. Caracas airport was reportedly closed. (TF/Embassy Caracas telcon)

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
POWELL

Additional Addressees:

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 06 JUN 2006 200304421